

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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PSM, PSS, S/S Ó hUiginn, Counsellors A-I, Mr Teahon, Mr Dalton, Dr Mansergh, Ambassadors London & Washington, Joint Secretary, Section, [redacted]
COB 7.8

Secure Fax: 772

6 August 1997 **No of pages including this one: 1**

To: HQ COB 7.8
For: Colm O Floinn

From: Belfast
From: Steve Magner

Subj: Murder of James Morgan

1. In response to our enquiries about the murder of James Morgan, whose body was found in a sink-hole in Castlewellan, Co Down last week, the British side have given us some detail on the matter.

2. One of the two persons currently charged with the murder gave himself up to the RUC early last week. This led to the discovery of the body. Both men charged were severely under the influence of drugs at the time of the murder. For this reason the RUC cannot say for certain that the crime was sectarian. (i.e. They are not certain whether Mr Morgan was killed because he was a Catholic or because the perpetrators were "high" on drugs at the time!). In response to my obvious enquiry as to whether the late Mr Morgan would have been murdered if he had been a non-Catholic, the British side said that the RUC were not definite on that aspect of the matter. I requested to be kept informed of developments in the ongoing investigation.

3. Incidentally we have learned from a usually reliable source that the injuries to Mr Morgan were unusually horrific - he was stabbed, beaten with a hammer, was set on fire and was driven over by a vehicle.

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